

The First Apparition of  
**Bishop Goodman's Ghost,**

BEING

A New strange Sight, Or : A Late strange Vision.

Making a wofull Repetition, of his former Confession ; in 1653.

Upon the Extirpation of *Bishops* : in 1642.

Now Occasionally Reviewed, and seasonably Renewed. 1681. For an Adhortatory Admonition to all Bishops, and their Courts.



I Confess, that God would never have permitted us, to have Suffer'd in such a manner, as we have done, had we not provoked Him with our Sins. And that I may be our own Accuser, I think our greatest Offence did consist in these two things.

1. *First*, That many of Us, did not spend our *Church-means* in a Church-like manner; but converted them to our own private *Uses* : Or otherwise, Misemploy'd them : Therefore, God justly takes them away; and permits *Sacrilege* : we our *Selves* having first Offended in the same kinde. For certainly, Church-means should have relation as well to the *Uses* as to the *Persons* : and a Church-man in mispending them, commits *Sacrilege*.

And whereas many excuse it, in regard of their Wives, and Children; God forbid, but regard should be had to *Them* : yet still with moderation.

I cannot excuse the Excess of *Apparel*, and some other courses of Expence. Yet, This I must testify for a Truth, that speaking privately with some Bishops, they told me, and I believed them; that they laid not up, one Farthing of their Bishopricks : and This may appear, for many of them, died very Poor : As *Worcester*, *Hereford*, *Peterborough*, *Bristol* : and not unlike, but others will do so.

2. Another great fault in the Church, was the intollerable Abuse, of the *Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction* : therefore God hath made us now Uncapable of Any *Jurisdiction*.

*So just and wonderful is God in all his Judgements.*

I confess, in mine own particular, I did as much desire, and labour to reform it, as any man could do; yet I could never prevail. Herein a little to excuse the Church; I have it, and can produce it at this time, under the Kings own Hand, and Seal; wherein he forbids, that any Church-man, or Priest in Holy Orders, should be a *Chauncellour* : and This was the Occasion, of all the Corruption, in the *Spiritual Courts*. For the Judges at the *Common Law* have their Pensions, and Allowances : but Chauncellours have none at all : They live only upon the *Fees* of the Court : and for Them to Dismiss a Cause; it was to lose so much blood. Now if they be naught in Themselves; then they must for their own Advantage and Profit, have Instruments and Agents accordingly : so the *Registers*, *Proctors*, *Apparators* ; they were -----

*Pessimum genus hominum.*

While the *Spiritual Court* was only Govern'd by Church-men and Priests; [as it ought to be, and hath ever been so heretofore : ] they had their *Spiritual Benefices*, and Dignities to live upon; and did scorn the *Fees* of the Court. Besides the Holiness of the Profession, kept them from Bribing, and Corruption.

Little do men think, how much they suffer, by this own Position; ----- That Church-men should not Interpose in Civil and Moral Affairs : whereas formerly, Bishops, and Church-men were only trusted with *Last Wills* and *Testaments* ; and granting out *Administrations* : ----- and certainly, if there be any Honesty amongst men; it must be supposed to be rather in them, than in others. But there having been such an *Abuse* ; it must be acknowledged, that God is most Just in all his wayes : and what hath befallen us, it is according to the Deserts of our Sin.

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The Book in which this Confession is, was by that Right Reverend Bishop, Dr.  
Godfrey Goodman : late Bishop of Gloucester ; given with  
his own hand to me

ANTHONY SADLER:

At that time Chaplain to the Right Honourable Letticia Lady Pagett Dowager.

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